[Translation]

Supply of Sub-Standard Cement

1661. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding the supply of sub-Standard cement by J.K. Udaipur Industries Limited during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government agencies (ISI etc.) have discharged their responsibility in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for allowing the sub-standard cement flow in the market?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the records of the Bureau of Indian Standards, only one complaint regarding supply of sub-standard cement under Batch No. 49/95 by M/s J.K. Udaipur Industries Ltd. has been received so far in 1996-97. However, no such complaint was received in 1995-96.

(b) to (d). Cement is under mandatory certification under the Cement (Quality Control) Order, 1995 issued by the Ministry of Industry. The appropriate authority for enforcement of the Order is the State Government. BIS grants licence to manufacturers to use the BIS Standard mark namely, the ISI mark after observing laid down procedures.

On receipt of the complaint mentioned in part (a), BIS investigated the complaint as per the prescribed procedure. A detailed discussion was held with the Complanant by the officers of BIS's, Jaipur Branch. Examination of the records of the manufacturer showed that batch No. 42/95 to 50/95 satisfied the requirements of the Indian Standards. It was learnt that the complainant had also got in touch with the manufacturers in April/May, 1996 and a sample from batch No. 49/95 was tested by the manufacturer in the presence of the complainant. From the records made available to the BIS, it was found that both the complainant and the manufacturer has agreed that the sample from batch No.49/95, which was tested by the Manufacturer in the presence of the complainant, conformed to the requirements of the Indian Standards.

[English]

Dairy Development Project

1662. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indo-Swiss dairy development projects are being Implemented in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the funds sanctioned by Switzerland for implementing those projects so far;

(c) the details of regions covered in Orissa by the Indo-Swiss dairy projects; and

(d) the progress of those project till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Swiss assisted project for development of animal husbandry, dairy and sustainable land use in being implemented in Orissa. Out of the total Swiss assistance of the order of Rs.6.2 crores agreed for the project a sum of Rs.5.8 crores have been utilised. The project is implemented in nine blocks in Ganjam and four blocks in Gajapati District. Major achievements under the project so far include

(i) Support ot artificial insemination programmes

(ii) Development of dairy cooperative societies

(iii) Fodder development programmes

(iv) Strengthening of Livestock Breeding and Dairy Farm at Bhanjanagar

(v) Support to training and extension programmes.

Recommendations of Mandal Commission

1663. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Commission to revive implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission; and

(b) if so, the time by which such a Commission in likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of Supreme Court direction in the case of Indira Sawhney and Others Vs. Union of India, a permanent Commission namely National Commission for Backward Classes have already been set up in 1993 under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 to examine the requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the litars and hear complaints of over inclusion/under inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central government as it deems appropriate. Further, to fulfil the direction of Supreme Court and the recommendation of the Mandal Commission regarding reservation in Govt. jobs, Central Government provided 27 per cent reservation in vacancies in civil posts and services under Government of India in favour of other Backward Classes with effect from 8th September, 1993 subject to the exclusion of socially and economically advanced persons/sections known as 'Creamy Layer'.